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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/809,359	03/26/2004	Chang-Long Lee	LEEC3083/EM	7575
23364	7590	10/11/2006	EXAMINER	
BACON & THOMAS, PLLC 625 SLATERS LANE FOURTH FLOOR ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314			CHEN, ALAN S	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2182	

DATE MAILED: 10/11/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/809,359	Applicant(s) LEE, CHARNG-LONG	
	Examiner Alan S. Chen	Art Unit 2182	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 18 August 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 7-11 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 26 March 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Applicant's election of claims 1-6, directed to group 1 of the restriction requirement, in the reply filed on 08/18/2006 is acknowledged. Because applicant did not distinctly and specifically point out the supposed errors in the restriction requirement, the election has been treated as an election without traverse (MPEP § 818.03(a)).

2. Claims 7-11 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to a nonelected species, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Election was made **without** traverse in the reply filed on 08/18/2006.

Specification

3. The use of the trademark on page 1 has been noted in this application. It should be capitalized wherever it appears and be accompanied by the generic terminology.

Although the use of trademarks is permissible in patent applications, the proprietary nature of the marks should be respected and every effort made to prevent their use in any manner which might adversely affect their validity as trademarks.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States

Art Unit: 2182

only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

5. Claims 1-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being fully anticipated by US Pat. No. 6,733,329 to Yang.

6. Per claim 1, Yang discloses a combinational USB storage device (*Figs. 2-9*) coupled to an external electronic device (*Fig. 3, element USB, connectors couple combinational USB storage device to external computer system*) for providing a storage capacity to the electronic device (*Fig. 3, element 24 is flash storage*), comprising: an adapter including a USB connector at one end (*Fig. 2, element 3 is an adapter with USB connector, element 33X*), the USB connector being adapted to insert into a USB slot of the electronic device (*connector connects to female USB port on computer*), and a first connecting member at the other end (*Fig. 2, element 32 is a first connecting member*); and a storage (*Fig. 2, element 2 is the entire storage component*) including: at least one memory unit capable of storing data (*Fig. 2, element 24 is the flash storage*); a second connecting member mated with and coupled to the first connecting member (*Fig. 2, element 22 is the second connecting member that mates with element 32*); and a controller electrically coupled to the second connecting member and the memory unit (*Fig. 2, element 23 is electrically coupled to both the second connecting member, element 22 and flash storage, element 24 via a circuit board*), and electrically coupled to the USB connector via connecting the first connecting member to the second connecting member (*when one first and second connector are mated and plugged into the external computer, storage component communicates with the external computer*), thereby either receiving signals from the USB slot and converting the same into digital

signals or converting the digital signals into ones adapted to input the USB slot so that the electronic device is able to access data from the memory unit (*controller controls signaling between external computer and flash memory*).

7. Per claim 2, Yang discloses claim 1, Yang further disclosing the first and second connecting members complies with USB (*Fig. 2, elements 22 and 32 transmit signals for the USB connector, element 33A, therefore is by definition in compliance with USB*).

8. Per claim 3, Yang discloses claim 1, Yang further disclosing the USB connector is a standard A type connector (*Fig. 3, element 33A*).

9. Per claim 4, Yang discloses claim 1, Yang further disclosing the USB connector is a standard B type connector (*Fig. 3, element 33B*).

10. Per claim 5, Yang discloses claim 1, Yang further disclosing the USB connector is a small A type connector (*Fig. 3, element 33M is MiniType USB encompassing either A or B types*).

11. Per claim 6, Yang discloses claim 1, Yang further disclosing the USB connector is a small B type connector (*Fig. 3, element 33M is MiniType USB encompassing either A or B types*).

Conclusion

12. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Patents and patent related publications are cited in the Notice of References Cited (Form PTO-892) attached to this action to further show the state of the art with respect to portable USB flash drives with discrete sections which can potentially be physically separated.

- US Pat. No. 6,148,354 to Ban et al. discloses a flash drive that had distinct functional blocks for a flash storage (element 58), controller (element 76), interface (element 64) and connector (element 52).
- US Pat. Pub. No. 2004/0025031 to Ooi et al. discloses an apparatus that has a separable storage unit (element 22) from the main controller unit (element 10), with an external host (element 14).
- US Pat. Pub. No. 2005/0066129 to Chang et al. discloses a portable storage device that has two distinct storage areas.

13. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Alan S. Chen whose telephone number is 571-272-4143. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 9am-5pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kim N. Huynh can be reached on 571-272-4147. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 2182

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

ASC
09/26/2006

Alan B. Van
9/26/06